

**THE CITY OF SOUTHAMPTON
(VARIOUS ROADS) (SPEED LIMITS) (AMENDMENT 34) ORDER 2026**

Statement of Reasons

This Order is being proposed for the following reasons:

- For avoiding danger to persons or other traffic using the road or any other road or for preventing the likelihood of any such danger arising (*i.e. to improve safety*)
- for facilitating the passage on the road or any other road of any class of traffic (including pedestrians)
- for preserving or improving the amenities of the area through which the road runs
- Improving air quality

The purpose of the proposed Traffic Regulation Order is to introduce a 20mph speed limit on roads in the vicinity of the Outdoor Sports Centre, Southampton, which is currently undergoing redevelopment.

The redevelopment of the Outdoor Sports Centre is expected to result in an increase in the number of journeys to and from the site. This includes increased use by motor vehicles accessing the site and its car parking areas, as well as a rise in pedestrian and cyclist movements associated with sports activities, events, staff, and visitors.

The roads surrounding the Outdoor Sports Centre include key access points which will experience higher levels of interaction between different road users. The introduction of a 20mph speed limit is intended to improve road safety for all users by reducing vehicle speeds in areas where there is a high likelihood of pedestrian and cyclist activity. Lower vehicle speeds are associated with a reduced risk of collisions occurring and a reduction in the severity of injuries should a collision take place.

The proposed speed limit will also support safer and more comfortable conditions for walking and cycling, encouraging active travel in line with wider transport and public health objectives.

Southampton City Council is committed to ensuring the city's streets are safe for everyone who uses them. The Corporate Plan and Connected Southampton 2040 Local Transport Plan set out the Council's objectives to make Southampton a place where people can easily and safely get around; and continue to reduce casualties from transport collisions towards zero, focusing on the safety of children and people walking and cycling.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA) has put together a 20mph factsheet, explaining the need for lower speeds to bring down casualty rates, and the evidence behind 20mph zones/limits in reducing vehicle speeds. Safety and environmental improvements for all road users can be achieved by reducing vehicle speeds.

Southampton is seeking to become a recognised UNICEF 'Child Friendly City'. Evidence shows that children's reaction times are slower than adults' in perceiving gaps in fast moving traffic. The UN's 'Streets for Life' campaign and World Health Organisation call for 20mph in all areas where people and traffic mix to promote child friendly streets and reduce child casualty rates.

Studies have also shown that the use of 20mph speed limits will specifically assist other vulnerable road user groups, including people with disabilities and elderly pedestrians. This is

of vital importance in reducing the risk of severe injury and helping to maintain independent mobility.

In authorising the advertisement of these proposals the Council has given consideration to its duty under s122 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic (including pedestrians) and the provision of suitable and adequate parking facilities on and off the highway (while having regard to the matters specified in s122 subsection (2) of that Act).